



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/782,444

02/19/2004

Anthony Edward Martinez

8185P029

5166

76073

7590

06/08/2010

InfoPrint Solutions/ Blakely
1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, CA 94085-4040

EXAMINER

THOMAS, ASHISH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/08/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/782,444	Applicant(s) MARTINEZ, ANTHONY EDWARD	
	Examiner ASHISH K. THOMAS	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/19/2010 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to the independent claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Supreme Court precedent and recent Federal Circuit decisions indicate that a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. While the instant claim(s) recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, the claim(s) neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another statutory

Art Unit: 2625

category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process.

Regarding claims 1-6, some of the steps detailed in these claims can be reasonably interpreted as being performed by a user rather than a computing device. Because of this ambiguity in the claim language, the Examiner suggests that the claim language be amended to claim a computer implemented method.

4. Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding claims 7-12, it is not explicitly stated in the claim language if the computer readable medium is a non-transitory entity. In order to avoid ambiguity in the claim language, the Examiner suggests that the claim language consist of the phrase "non-transitory signal."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogaki(U.S. 6,771,383) in view of Mei(U.S. 6,236,831), Douglin(U.S. 6,619,695), Leinhos(U.S. 5,721,813), and Asao(U.S. 7,066,460).

Regarding claim 13, Ogaki teaches a printing system for processing separator pages(**Column 4, lines 46-47 describes a separator sheet**) used for separating print

Art Unit: 2625

jobs being output from said printing system, said printing system comprising: a printer device(**Machine 1 in figure 1**); an input device for providing an input separator page to said printer for identifying a second print job(**Column 8, lines 1-10 teaches the detection of separator sheet. This, in turn, inherently teaches a device that provides the separator sheet to the printing unit.**); said printer device being operable for printing second printing job information thereby providing a second print job separator page.(**Figure 13 illustrates that a separator page is printed with each job or document. This implies the existence of the second print job separator page.**)

But Ogaki does not teach an image acquisition device arranged between an input device and a printer device, the image acquisition device being operable for optically obtaining image information identifying information contained on an input page; processing means coupled to the image acquisition device for determining if the inputted page contains a first information by optically identifying a first set of end markers on the page, the printer device being operable for obscuring the first set of information and the first set of end markers on the input page if the first information is determined to be present on the page, the printer device being operable for printing second information on input page between a second set of end markers at a predetermined position relative to the obscured first print information thereby providing a second page.

Mei, on the other hand, teaches an image acquisition device(**Scanner device 104 detailed in column 2, lines 60-64**) arranged between an input device and a printer device, the image acquisition device being operable for optically obtaining image

Art Unit: 2625

information identifying information contained on an input page(**Column 3, lines 1-10 discloses the ability to optically scan the inputted page.**); processing means coupled to the image acquisition device for determining if the inputted page contains a first information by optically identifying a first set of end markers on the page(**Column 2, lines 31-35 teaches identification of marks on the scanned page. This, in turn, inherently teaches the processing means stated in the claim language. Also, note that the marks stated in the Mei reference read on the first set of information and its corresponding end markers stated in the claim language.**), the printer device being operable for obscuring the first set of information and the first set of end markers on the input page if the first information is determined to be present on the page(**Column 2, lines 35-38 and column 2, lines 55-60 teach concealing the detected marks.**), the printer device being operable for printing second information on input page between a second set of end markers at a predetermined position relative to the obscured first print information thereby providing a second page. (**Column 8, lines 20-27 teaches printing a second image on the recycled sheet.**)

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the present invention, to modify Ogaki with Mei to put forth a printing system wherein a separator sheet can be reused for a plurality of print jobs wherein the separator sheet is scanned for prior information and erasing the prior information for newer information.

The motivation behind this modification simply is to put forth an efficient apparatus that saves paper.

But Ogaki and Mei do not explicitly teach a printer device being operable for obscuring print job information on a sheet and inputting new print job information on the sheet.

Douglin, on the other hand, teaches a printer device being operable for obscuring print job information on a sheet and inputting new print job information on the sheet.

(Column 3, lines 5-28 discloses a reusable fax cover sheet that is used for a plurality of print jobs. Prior job information is erased for newer job information.).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the present invention, to modify Ogaki and Mei with Douglin to put forth a printing system for processing separator pages used for separating print jobs being output from said printing system, said printing system comprising: a printer device; an input device for providing an input separator page to said printer for identifying a second print job; an image acquisition device arranged between said input device and said printer device, said image acquisition device being operable for optically obtaining image information identifying information contained on said input separator page; and processing means coupled to said image acquisition device for determining if said input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page by optically identifying a first set of end markers on the input separator page, said printer device being operable for obscuring said first print job information and the first set of end markers if said first print job information is determined to be present on said input separator page, said printer device being operable for printing second print job information on said input separator page between

a second set of end markers at a predetermined position relative to said obscured first print job information thereby providing a second print job separator page.

The motivation behind combining Ogaki and Mei with Douglin is to prevent the wasteful usage of paper by re-using the same separator page for a plurality of print jobs. Here, only the separator page information need to be changed.

Yet, the combination of Ogaki, Mei, and Douglin fails to teach the ability to determined if all machine readable regions on a page have been filled and outputting more information on a page if all machine readable regions on a page have not been filled.

Leinhos, on the other hand, teaches the ability to determine if all machine readable regions on a page have been filled and outputting more information on a page if all machine readable regions on a page have not been filled. **(Column 7, lines 20-40 discloses the ability to see if more items can be printed on label sheet 42. If so, then more printing is permitted.)**

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the present invention, to modify Ogaki, Mei, and Douglin with Leinhos to put forth forth a printing system for processing separator pages used for separating print jobs being output from said printing system, said printing system comprising: a printer device; an input device for providing an input separator page to said printer for identifying a second print job; an image acquisition device arranged between said input device and said printer device, said image acquisition device being operable for optically obtaining image information identifying information contained on said input

Art Unit: 2625

separator page; and processing means coupled to said image acquisition device for determining if said input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page by optically identifying a first set of end markers on the input separator page, said printer device being operable for obscuring said first print job information and the first set of end markers if said first print job information is determined to be present on said input separator page and determining if all machine readable regions on the input separator page have been obscured, said printer device being operable for printing second print job information on said input separator page between a second set of end markers at a predetermined position relative to said obscured first print job information thereby providing a second print job separator page if all machine readable regions on the input separator page have not been obscured.

The motivation behind the modification is to yield a system that permits the output of information on a page only if there is space on the page. Otherwise, the output would be invalid and of no use to a user. Because of this modification, greater efficiency is realized.

Yet, the combination of Ogaki, Mei, Douglin, and Leinhos fails to teach discarding a page if all machine readable regions on the page have been filled.

Asao, on the other hand, teaches discarding a page if all machine readable regions on the page have been filled. (**Column 20, lines 50-67 and column 21, lines 20-40**)

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the present invention, to modify Ogaki, Mei, Douglin, and Leinhos with Asao to fully put forth the system claimed in claim 13.

The motivation behind this modification is to get rid of unusable sheets.

Regarding claim 1, it is rejected in the same manner as claim 13 since a corresponding method is disclosed in claim 1.

Regarding claim 7, it is rejected in the same manner as claim 13 since it discloses a program that corresponds to the system claimed in claim 13. Furthermore, column 7, lines 62-67 of the Mei reference teaches a storage device that is connected to a processor which performs the functions.

Regarding claims 4, 10, and 16, the aforementioned combination of Ogaki, Mei, and Douglin additionally teaches that the determining is accomplished by obtaining a photo image of said input separator page. **(Column 2, lines 30-35 of Mei teaches scanning and storing an image of a sheet. And Ogaki, in column 7, lines 40-50, teaches the detection of a separation sheet. Therefore, the combination obviously teaches the subject matter claimed in the respective claims.)**

Regarding claims 5, 11, and 17, Ogaki additionally teaches printing said second print job; assembling said second print job with said second print job separator page; and outputting said second print job with said second print job separator page from said printer. **(Note that column 8, lines 7-15 teaches that a separator page is attached to each print job, and the combined documents are outputted accordingly.)**

Regarding claims 6, 12, and 18, Douglin further teaches inputting said second print job separator page containing said second print job information for receiving by said printer system for processing a third input separator page to be used to identify a third print job. **(Column 3, lines 5-28 discloses a re-usable sheet. This implies more than one jobs, so a second and third jobs are established in the teaching.**

Regarding claims 2, 8, and 14, Mei further teaches obtaining a bit map image**(Column 2, lines 38-45 teaches scanning a page. This reads on obtaining a bit mapped image.)**

Regarding claims 3, 9, and 15, Mei teaches scanning a page using an optical scanning device **(Column 2, lines 38-45 teaches scanning a page.)**

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ASHISH K. THOMAS whose telephone number is (571)272-0631. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 0700-1530 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ashish K Thomas/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/David K Moore/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625